THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) All India Tiger Census carried out in 1993 revealed a declining trend in tiger population.

(b) The last All India Tiger Census was carried out in 1993.

(c) The estimated population of tigers during 1989 and 1993 census are 4334 and 3750 respectively.

(d) The decline in the population of tigers is mainly due to increase in poaching to meet the demand of illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body. The steps taken by the Government to save the tigers, including :—

(i) Setting up of a Tiger Crisis Cell in the Ministry;

(ii) State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around protected areas;

(iii) Steps have been taken to set up a Special Strike Force in the Project Tiger areas; and

(iv) Government of India initiated action to establish the Global Tiger Forum, to which all range countries have been invited to become Members, so as to strengthen international co-operation in curbing poaching and conserving the tiger.

International Conference of Environment Ministers in Geneva

4574. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an International Conference of Environment Ministers was held in Geneva from 17th February, 1994 onwards, under the combined aegis of UN Environment Programme and the UNCTAD; and

(b) if so, what were the main issues concerning the interests of the developing countries discussed therein and what decisions or resolutions were adopted therein; indicating the stand taken by India on each issue ?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A round table discussion was organised by UNEP in conjunction with UNCTAD on "Perspective of developing countries on Environment and Trade" on 17th February, 1994.

(b) The discussion at the meeting centered around trade liberalisation and sustainable development, the impact of trade measures on environmental protection, the recommendations of the Rio Summit on the Trade-Environment issue and the need for capacity building in developing countries. India's position was stated by the Minister of Environment and Forests who urged that environmental issues should not become a non-tariff barrier to trade, and also highlighted the fact that environmental measures were not always the best way to address the trade related issues.

वायु (प्रदूषण निवारण और नियंत्रण) अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत सौराष्ट्र में दर्ज मामले

4575. **श्री चिमन भाई हरि भाई शुक्ल :** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान वायु (प्रदूषण निवारण और नियंत्रण) अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत सौराष्ट्र में कितने मामले दर्ज किए गए हैं; और

(ख) प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों और विभिन्न न्यायालयों ने कितने मामलों में पक्षकारों के क्रमश: पक्ष में या उनके विरूद्ध निर्णय दिये हैं ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के (राज्य मंत्री श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) और (ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान गुजरात प्रदूषण बोर्ड द्वारा सौराष्ट्र में एक प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले उद्योग के विरूद्ध केवल एक मामला दर्ज किया गया है। इस अवधि के दौरान चार मामलों पर निर्णय हुआ है जिनमें से दो मामले बोर्ड के पक्ष में तथा दो मामले उसके विरूद्ध गए हैं।